Christina Knowles

EDU 262

Dr. Ward

Essential Belief Statement

When I started attending the University of Maine Farmington I was sure that I wanted to become a high school English teacher. I wanted to work with and inspire teens, but not deal with them being as bratty and immature as middle school students. That is why I signed up for middle school grades during my practicum class. I heard that if I did my practicum in a middle school, I could focus my student teaching in just the high school. However, my practicum experience changed my whole mindset on young adolescence.

The reason I did not wan to teach at a middle school was because I remember hating my middle school experience. I remember my friends being mean and immature, always being stressed out and never being comfortable enough to talk to any of my teachers. I honestly did not think about the great teaching opportunities when deciding that I did not want to teach in a middle school, I just could not get over how horrible a time I had as a student.

As I said before, my practicum changed everything. From the first day on, I loved teaching there. The students would constantly come up to me and make jokes, tell me stories and were instantly comfortable with me. I got to be silly with the students because they acted crazy themselves and it allowed them to have fun while learning.

A middle school teacher should not be scared to be creative and a little crazy in the classroom. Though the students are young teens, they still have the spunkiness of kids and want to move around and interact with the teacher and others. I also think that teachers in middle school need to try to make every student comfortable. I remember never being comfortable to talk to any of my teacher and I think that is what made my middle school life so bad. Teachers should also be constantly trying to keep up communication with parents because teens make a lot of life changing decisions in middle school and we want parents to be as involved in their children’s lives as possible.

A middle school teacher should also be very flexible in his/her lessons and must be able to work in a team. Middle schools are based on teachers working together in order to make the experience the best for the students. I absolutely loved that a lot of middle schools have their teachers work as teams. In these teams teachers can organize the curriculum in a way so that the students are not overwhelmed. Also, teachers tend to keep better track of how students are doing in their classes when they work in teams.

One thing I am scared of when teaching in a middle school is that I am going to have a student like I was who does not feel comfortable to talk to anyone. I do not want any of my students to fall through the cracks because I did not notice them or just listen to them when they needed to talk.

However, though I am a little worried about teaching in a middle school, my excitement out ways any other emotion. I cannot wait until I can teach in a middle school someday!